



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



50X1

25 JANUARY 1965

~~TOP SECRET~~



DAILY BRIEF
25 JANUARY 1965

1. South Vietnam

The traditional Vietnamese New Year holidays next week may bring some slackening in military activity. The Communist-dominated National Front for the Liberation of South Vietnam has ordered a cease-fire for 1 through 6 February for celebration. Government soldiers are invited to visit their native villages in "liberated" areas so long as they do not carry arms or spy.

50X1

Political maneuvering continues in Saigon amid an increasing air of intrigue. Our Annex sums up this situation.

2. Congo

East African leaders are intent upon increasing the flow of arms, including artillery, to the Congolese rebels.

50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A003400300001-6

50X1

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release 2015/07/24 : CIA-RDP79T00936A003400300001-6

3. USSR

Current Soviet naval activity in the Western Pacific could reflect an intent to establish a limited military presence in the area, but it is too early to determine its full purpose. Moscow may only be combining training with the temporary maintenance of a close watch on US operations, particularly of US aircraft carriers.

50X1

4. Cuba

[redacted]
[redacted] Fidel Castro [redacted]
[redacted]

50X1

50X1

[redacted] was not planning the shootdown of any U-2s. Castro [redacted] was impressed by the US bombing of the North Vietnamese naval bases last August. He doubted the Soviets would come to his aid in a similar circumstance.

50X1
50X1

50X1

ANNEX

Political Intrigue in South Vietnam

Over the weekend various sources presented the US Embassy with a welter of conflicting reports on the intentions and intrigues of the Vietnamese military.

Premier Huong told Ambassador Taylor that the military presented their views to him yesterday, deliberately overrating the danger of his confrontation with the Buddhists in an effort to force his resignation. Huong said he would stick to his tough policy and would not resign.

General Khanh is continuing to maneuver for power. He appears willing either to work with the Buddhists or to use the Buddhist threat to justify a return to military government. Yesterday he told Deputy Ambassador Johnson that he had Buddhist agreement to a military takeover. Subsequently, however, one of the "Young Turks" told Huong's deputy that the military had reconsidered and decided to support the government, at least for now.

It is not clear whether Khanh is carrying along the rest of the military in his maneuvering. Embassy officials have been told by two different sources that a plot is underway to assassinate Khanh or at least to get him out of the country. The sources were seeking some sign of US approval. They were strongly discouraged, with the warning that such action could only make matters worse. One of these sources later reported that action against Khanh had been deferred for the moment.

The Buddhists themselves are following a devious, flexible course, aimed at Huong's overthrow and replacement by a government over which they can exert some influence, whether it be military or civilian.

TOP SECRET

TOP SECRET